

CCM 2012 Testimony

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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

S.B. 245, "An Act Concerning the Recording of Police Activity by the Public"

CCM opposes this bill.

SB 245 would increase municipal liability exposure and encourage litigation. It would allow persons to sue police officers if such officers prevent the taking of pictures, under certain circumstances.

While it may be attractive to support this bill, CCM urges the Committee to consider the following:

- SB 245 is an invitation for persons to try to get at the perceived "deep pockets" of communities and punish municipalities.
- The bill would further complicate the already tenuous work of police officers.
- The bill could cause a "chilling effect" since police officers would constantly evaluate whether to secure the integrity of a scene or risk a liability suit.

CCM urges the Committee to take no action on this bill.

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If you have any questions, please call Ron Thomas at rthomas@ccm-ct.org at (203) 498-3000.